

International Preliminary Report  
 regarding Patentability  
 (ANNEX)

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V.

1. In the present office action reference is made to the following document:  
 D1: DE 92 16 955 U (KRONENBERG MAX) 14 April 1994 (1994-04-14)

2. INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

- 2.1 The present application does not meet the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT, since the subject matter of claim 1 is not novel in terms of Article 33(2) PCT.  
 D1 discloses (the references in parentheses refer to this document):

a connecting element (1) for two end regions of box-shaped hollow spacer profiles (2, 3) in multiple glazings (25), with a base plate (11) and side walls with resilient retainer elements (13, 15), the side walls being profiled in cross section, in a first region (13) of each side wall, which adjoins the base plate, the cross sectional profile of this region is developed such that the side wall forms a spring element, which is deflectable in a direction approximately parallel to the face and at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the base plate, and in a second region (15) of each side wall, which forms the free end region of the side wall, the cross sectional profile of this region is developed such that this region of the side wall forms a further spring element, which is deflectable at least in a direction approximately at right angles to the face and to the longitudinal axis of the base plate.

Document D1 therewith discloses all of the characteristics of claim 1.

3. DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-8

The claims 2-8 contain no characteristics which, in combination with the characteristics of any claim to which they refer, fulfill the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty or inventive step, since the characteristics of claims 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 in combination with the characteristics of claim 1 from D1 are known, and the selection of the material and of the thickness in claim 5 are not based on inventive steps in terms of Article 33(3) PCT.